

TUNISIAN ARABIC SURVIVAL GUIDE

Speak like a local.
Travel with confidence.



FREE AUDIO COMPANION

Real phrases • Mini dialogues • Culture

MONGIA BEN NACEUR

A Note from the Author

Are you planning a trip to Tunisia? Would you like to learn a few useful Tunisian Arabic expressions without spending too much time or money on lessons?

If your goal is simply to communicate during your holiday, this guide is for you.

I created this book to make learning Tunisian Arabic simple, practical, and accessible to everyone. You don't need to study complicated grammar, memorize hundreds of words, or spend hours searching for the right expressions.

Instead, I carefully selected a small number of useful phrases that you are likely to need during your trip. Each chapter focuses on a real-life situation and includes just six or seven essential expressions.

From greeting people and ordering food to taking a taxi, shopping at local markets, asking for directions, or getting help in an emergency, this guide covers everyday situations that travelers may face in Tunisia.

As a Tunisian Arabic teacher with several years of experience, I have worked with learners from different backgrounds. This has helped me understand their needs, the difficulties they face, and what makes learning easier.

That's why I wanted this book to be simple, useful, and easy to follow.

To help you with pronunciation, the guide also comes with audio recordings featuring both female and male voices speaking natural Tunisian Arabic. You can listen, follow the written expressions, and repeat at your own pace.

Thank you for choosing this guide. I hope it helps you feel more confident, communicate with local people, and make the most of your time in Tunisia.

Enjoy your trip, discover our beautiful country, and welcome to Tunisia!

Mar7ba bik fi Tounes!

Mongia Ben Naceur
Darja with Mongia

A little Darja goes far

This compact guide helps travellers use practical Tunisian Arabic in everyday situations. Choose the expressions you need and try them during your trip.

How to use this booklet

- 1 Choose a chapter by situation
- 2 Listen and repeat
- 3 Read the English meaning
- 4 Try a phrase in a real conversation

Your three-line guide

عَسْلَامَة!

3asslema!

Hello!

Good to know

Tunisian Arabic varies by region. Latin spelling is an approximate pronunciation guide; listening helps you learn the sounds. Audio labels identify chapter and track numbers. The website link is on the final page.

Find your phrase

Tap a chapter or reference page to jump there

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Find your phrase

Tap a chapter or reference page to jump there

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The sound key

Latin letters and numbers help you read Tunisian Arabic

Arabic is usually written with Arabic letters. In this booklet, numbers stand for sounds that English letters do not represent exactly. Listen to hear each expression.

3

ع

deep throat sound

7

ح

breathy h

9

ق

back-of-mouth q

kh

خ

as in Scottish loch

gh

غ

throaty voiced sound

ch

ش

as in shoe

Your first 10 phrases

Useful words to try from the moment you arrive

عَسَلَامَة

3asslema

Hello

سَامَحْنِي

Sama7ni

Sorry / excuse me

عَيَّشَك

3aychek

Thank you

تَنْجَم تَعَاوْنِي؟

Tnajjem t3awenni?

Can you help me?

بَقْدَّاش؟

B9addech?

How much?

وِين؟

Win...?

Where is...?

نَحْبِّ

N7eb...

I would like...

مَا فَهْمْتَش

Ma fhemtch

I did not understand

إِي

Ey

Yes

لَا

Le

No

CHAPTER 14

Bargaining at the souk

SPEAK · CONNECT · EXPLORE

14

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS

AUDIO 14.1

Bargaining at the souk

Negotiate politely when appropriate.

بقْدَاش هادي؟

01 **B9addech hedhi?**

How much is this?

غالية برشا!

02 **Ghalya barcha!**

That is very expensive!

تنجّم تنقّصلي شويّة في السوم؟

03 **Tnajjem tna99asli chwaya fes-soum?**

Can you lower the price a little?

هذا آخر سوم

04 **Hedha ekher soum**

This is the final price

باهي، باش ناخذها

05 **Behi, bech nakhedhha**

Okay, I'll take it

أكاهاو

06 **Akahaw**

That's all

CONVERSATION

AUDIO 14.2

Discussing the price

TRAVELER

عسلامة، بقْدَّاش هادي؟

3asslema, b9addech hedhi?

Hello, how much is this?

SELLER

بعشرين دينار

B3echrin dinar

Twenty dinars

TRAVELER

تنجّم تنقّصلي شويّة في السوم؟

Tnajjem tna99asli chwaya fes-soum?

Can you lower the price a little?

SELLER

نعملك سوم باهي

Na3mellek soum behi

I can give you a good price

You might hear

AUDIO 14.3

نعملك سوم باهي

Na3mellek soum behi

I will give you a good price

آخر سوم

Ekher soum

Final price

LOCAL INSIGHT

Bargaining may be welcome in some traditional souvenir stalls, but it is not appropriate everywhere. Be friendly and accept a firm price graciously.

YOUR TURN

If you do not want to buy, say: nechouf bark (just browsing).